

## House Republican Press Release

March 22, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Witkos Seeks Funds to Preserve Sweetheart Mountain



#### *Legislator Writes to OPM Secretary for Bonding to Save Land from Development*

**HARTFORD** - Representative Kevin Witkos (R-Canton) has written to Office of Policy and Management Secretary Robert Genuario seeking bonding of approximately \$2.5 million to purchase and preserve Sweetheart Mountain in Canton as open space, and protect it from future development.

The Meehan Group recently submitted a bid to build 60 homes on 89 acres on Sweetheart Mountain, west of Collinsville. The local planning commission denied it, and the Meehan Group has taken the matter to Superior Court.

Sweetheart Mountain has been identified as a top priority for open space commission and the local land trust to obtain, as it represents part of a 4,000-acre unfragmented forest that should be preserved in its natural state. It contains numerous trails for nature enthusiasts and offers a scenic view of Collinsville.

“It’s clear that the residents of Canton do not want this area developed, and would like to see it preserved as open space,” said Representative Witkos. “I am asking the Office of Policy and Management to assist the town in obtaining Sweetheart Mountain so that it can be preserved and protected.”

The \$2.5 million requested by Representative Witkos represents the developer’s asking price.